

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. today expressed his outrage and disappointment that the Illinois Gaming Board dealt out Country Club Hills and Summit from contention for the state's final casino license.

"The whole purpose and intent of gaming laws in Illinois was to bring economic development, tourism, jobs, and school funding to economically depressed regions of the state. But with this decision, it appears that the rich will get richer and that the poor will get poorer," Jackson said.

"Rather than generating jobs and opportunity where they are needed the most, this decision will put them where they are needed the least.

"The imbalance of economic activity and tourism in the metropolitan area will continue and widen," Jackson said.

Jackson reiterated his stance on gaming: "While I am not a big fan of casinos, I have always maintained that if there were to be a new license, it should go in the south suburbs, where some of the poorest communities in the state have agreed to work together and share the revenues in order to help their communities and local schools."